



*SENATOR*  
***MICHELLE A. McMANUS***  
***McManus Minutes***



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***“This office belongs to the citizens of the 35<sup>th</sup> district.”***

*State Senator Michelle A. McManus*

**Senate approves bills requiring citizenship for name changes**

The Michigan Senate unanimously passed legislation recently that will require someone to be a U.S. citizen to get a name change. The measure closes a loophole that enabled people to change their name without first providing proof of citizenship.

Senate Bills 915 and 916 require individuals who want a name change to:

- Show they have been a resident of the county for at least one year;
- File a written petition showing a sufficient reason for the name change; and
- Provide proof of citizenship.

The legislation now heads to the Michigan House of Representatives for consideration.

**Veterans Welcome Home Act becomes law**

Letters mailed by the state to returning war veterans are required to include a list of all state-funded veterans service organizations under the newly signed Veterans Welcome Home Act.

The law is designed to ensure returning vets are informed of the many service organizations available to help them start a business, continue their education, or assist them with veteran's benefits.

Senate Bill 754, now Public Act 176 of 2008, requires the Department of Labor and Economic Growth to include the list in its welcome-home letter. The list would be ordered according to the amount of state funding, with the group that receives the most state funding listed first and the remaining organizations listed in descending order.

The new law has the support of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Catholic War Veterans, and takes effect immediately.

**Contact Me**

My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding state issues. You can reach my Lansing office by phone at: 517-373-1725; toll free at 866-305-2135, or contact my Cadillac District Office at 231-775-8599. If you received this as a forwarded message and would like to receive future legislative updates via e-mail, you can sign up at my website: [www.senatormichellemcmanus.com](http://www.senatormichellemcmanus.com).